

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol comprising identification  
2 information for classifying whether contents of an event information table in a bit stream  
3 syntax are shifted in time or changed.

1 2. The master guide table of claim 1, wherein the master guide table manages a version  
2 and packet identification number (PID) for each table, including the event information table,  
3 which are defined in a program and system information protocol (PSIP) for a digital  
4 broadcast.

1 3. The master guide table of claim 1, wherein the identification information indicates, by  
2 allocating at least one bit in a reserved field in master guide table (MGT), whether the  
3 contents of the event information table are shifted in time or changed.

1 4. The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the reserved field in the master guide table  
2 is situated in a "for\_loop" statement in the bit stream syntax.

1 5. The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the bit value is "0" when the event  
2 information table is merely shifted, and "1" when the event information table is changed.

1 6. A method of broadcasting using a master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol,  
2 the method comprising:

3 (a) preparing, at a transmitting side, a present event information table comprising  
4 contents pertaining to a broadcast event;

5 (b) preparing, at the transmitting side, a master guide table for the digital broadcast  
6 protocol, including in the master guide table identification information which classifies  
7 whether the contents of the present event information table in a bit stream syntax are shifted  
8 in time or changed;

9 (c) transmitting the master guide table and the present event information table to a  
10 receiving side;

11 (c) receiving, at the receiving side, the master guide table including the identification  
12 information, and the present event information table, and parsing the identification  
13 information and the present event information table; and

14 (d) selectively updating a database having parsed contents of a previous event  
15 information table with the parsed contents of the present event information table in  
16 accordance with the parsed identification information.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the selective updating step (d) does not update the  
2 database with the parsed contents of the present event information table when the parsed  
3 identification information indicates that the present event information table is shifted in time,  
4 while updating the database with the parsed contents of the present event information table  
5 when the parsed identification information indicates that the present event information table  
6 is changed.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises at least one  
2 bit of a reserved field of the master guide table.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the  
2 present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the  
3 present event information table are changed.

1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein the transmitting step (c) comprises:  
2 preparing at least one event information table based on the present time using event  
3 information;  
4 allocating a program identification PID value and a version number for each event  
5 information table and including the identification information in the bit stream of the master  
6 guide table (MGT); and  
7 transmitting the master guide table to the receiving party after multiplexing the master  
8 guide table with an audio transport bit stream and a video transport bit stream.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the identification information is included in a  
2 reserved field of the master guide table.

1 12. The method of claim 6, wherein the event information table is prepared for each  
2 channel, each table comprising an event title, an event start time and an event end time for the  
3 event, and an event caption.

1 13. In a digital television receiver, a method of providing an electronic program guide,  
2 comprising:

3 receiving a digital broadcast signal comprising a master guide table and an event  
4 information table;

5 parsing the master guide table;

6 retrieving identification information from the parsed master guide table indicating  
7 whether contents of the event information table are actually changed or only shifted in time;  
8 and

9 and, in accordance with the parsed identification information, parsing the event  
10 information table and selectively updating a database for the electronic program guide with  
11 the parsed contents of the event information.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the database is not updated with the parsed contents  
2 of the event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the  
3 present event information table is shifted in time, while the database is updated with the  
4 parsed contents of the event information table when the parsed identification information  
5 indicates that the event information table is changed.

1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein retrieving the identification information comprises  
2 reading a value of a bit assigned in a reserved field in the master guide table.

- A 1 <sup>16</sup>~~17.~~ The method of claim 13, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the  
2 present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the  
3 present event information table are changed.

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